

REMARKS

This application is presently on appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. The Appeal brief is due on March 21, 2004. This Supplemental Amendment is being filed in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to add new claims 23 to 30 for consideration by the Examiner. It is respectfully requested that the appeal be withdrawn and that the RCE be granted and that the amendment be entered.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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